Department of State TELEGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 JUSE-00 CPR-01 /051 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:CHG
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EA - MR HUMMEL
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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, KS

SUBJECT:REPLIES TO PRESS INQUIRIES

THE FOLLOWING WAS POSTED IN THE PRESS OFFICE OCTOBER 27 IN REPLY TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS PUT TO DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON PREVIOUS DAY.

QUOTE: A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WERE ASKED YESTERDAY REGARDING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND JUSTICE AND CONTACTS BETWEEN STATE AND THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING JUSTICE'S INVESTIGATIONS OF ALLEGED ILLEGAL ACTIONS INVOLVING KOREAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN THE U.S. THE DEPT HAS BEEN IN CONTINUING TOUCH WITH JUSTICE ON THIS AND HAS GIVEN JUSTICE ITS FULL ASSISTANCE. OUR COOPERATION WITH JUSTICE HAS BEEN BASED, OF COURSE, ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALLEGATIONS OF ILLEGAL ACTIONS MUST BE

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FULLY INVESTIGATED REGARDLESS OF WHO MIGHT BE INVOLVED. WE HAVE MADE THIS POSITION CLEAR TO THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IN THE COURSE OF OUR CONTACTS ON THIS MATTER WITH THE KOREAN EMBASSY HERE.

THE QUESTION WAS ASKED WHETHER WE ARE CONSIDERING ASKING ANY ROK DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY BECAUSE

OF MISCONDUCT. CONSIDERATION OF THIS KIND OF ACTION WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER INVESTIGATION SUBSTANTIATED CHARGES OF MISCONDUCT.

ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER ROK DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO LEAVE THE US IN THE LAST FIVE OR SIX YEARS, IN 1973 VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER ACTIVITIES BY KOREAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO THE US WERE MADE. AN INVESTIGATION WAS UNDERTAKEN BY THE DEPT OF JUSTICE, AND, ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE ALL OF THE FACTS CONCERNING THESE REPORTS, WE WERE SATISFIED THAT THERE WAS ENOUGH SUBSTANCE TO THE COMPLAINTS TO WARRANT AN EXPRESSION OF OUR CONCERN TO THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT. AS A RESULT A SENIOR KOREAN EMBASSY OFFICER WAS TRANSFERRED.

END QUOTE

ROBINSON

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